

Air Quality Division

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Do I Need an Air Permit for a Diesel-Fired Generator?

Rule 201 of the Michigan Air Pollution Control Rules requires a person to obtain an approved Permit to Install (PTI) prior to the installation of a source of air pollution, such as a diesel generator. However, Rule 285(g) exempts internal combustion engines with less than 10,000,000 Btu/hr maximum heat input capacity from the PTI requirement, provided that the generator's potential emission of air contaminants does not exceed the significant emission levels found in Rule 278.

Table – Rule 278 Significant Emission Levels

	Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Nitrogen Oxide (NOx)	Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Particulate Matter 10 (PM 10)
Significant Emission Levels (tons/year)	100	40	40	15

If you do not have emissions data for the generator, you can use the PTE Diesel Fired Generator Calculation Worksheet (go to www.michigan.gov/deqair, click on “Clean Air Assistance,” scroll down to “Potential to Emit” where you will find the heading “PTE Calculation Worksheets,” and click on “Generator [Diesel]”). The worksheet contains emission factors for both emergency and non-emergency generators.

Compare your calculations to the numbers in the above table. If the emissions from the generator exceed one or more of the significant levels, then the generator is not exempt and it will need an approved PTI prior to installation. A General Permit for Emergency Generators can be found at www.michigan.gov/deqair, click on “Permits,” then on “Permits to Install/New Source Review,” scroll down to “General Permits – Application Forms and Instructions,” and then click on “view” for the “General Permit for Diesel Fired Generators.”

Please note that if you are installing more than one generator, you must compare the combined emissions from all generators being installed to the thresholds in Rule 278. If the combined emissions from the project exceeds any of the “significant” levels referenced in Rule 278, then you must obtain a Permit to Install prior to installing any of the of the new generators.

If you believe the generator(s) is exempt under Rule 285(g), please contact the appropriate DEQ Air Quality Division (AQD) district office to verify the determination. If you have questions regarding the applicability of the PTI, please contact the Environmental Assistance Program at 1-800-662-9278 or e-mail deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov.